

Cascades, 30th March, 1856

My dear mother:

We are about to depart from here. Wright's disposition is that two companies remain and Garrison Fort Vancouver, 1 stop at the Cascades. Dent will stay at the Cascades. We were transported to the foot of the rapids by the steamboat landing, 3 1-2 miles, by flat boats and 1 to 1 1-2 miles by railway to the steamboat landing at the head of the falls.

One company of the 9th and 4th, Maj. Haller's is garrisoned at the Dalles and Capt. Russell of the 4th is to escort friendly Indians to the reservation, 60 miles distant and remain with them as a guard.

Col. Wright with the 6th company of the 9th (~~6th ????~~) 1 of dragoons and one of artillery ~~00~~ amounting to 450 men was to march from the Dalles on the 24th.

Meanwhile Gen. Wool arrived at Vancouver and sent Fletcher and Dent's companies to reinforce Col. Casey at Steilacoom, leaving but one at Vancouver and only eight men who were posted at a blockhouse at the head of the flat boat landing to guard the pass of the Cascades.

Col. Wright did not regard ??? the change of arrangements or else taking the withdrawal of the companies by Gen. Wool as a declaration from Wool that no larger garrison was necessary left the Dalles on the 26th for Walla Walla. The Indians supposing that we had left on the 24th ~~were~~ and were out of reach made simultaneous attacks on the upper and lower Cascades and block houses (sic) We had encamped only five miles from there and received intelligence of the attack by steamer which left Cascades when the attack commenced. We returned with about 278 men, arriving before sunrise on the 28th, Friday. The Indians were taken completely by surprise. They fired a few shots as we landed and then took cover in the woods and continued to fire until my company and Wind ~~er's~~ deployed forward at skirmish.

and drove them off. Col. Steptoe then led our two companies to the Lower Cascades. They (the Indians) were so busy watching ~~Spencer~~ Lt. Sheridan who with 40 men from the garrison at Vancouver was working his way up on the opposite side of the river that they would not have seen us until we had passed between them and the mountain had not Sheridan's men cheered us and as not knowing that the Indians were near, some of our men answered.

This gave them a lesson and they took to the woods and opened a spotted fire from behind trees till we dashed in after them and drove them off as we had done at the Upper Landing. Only one of our men was killed in this day's work. He belonged to Wind's company and was with men in the woods when he was shot. Thus ended for the present the Walla Walla expedition.



Fort Vancouver, W.T. April 10  
1856

Dear Nannie:

Arrived here on the 4th Sept. . Vancouver had been badly stampeded . All the settlers for many miles around have abandoned farms and homes and come with their families for protection. They have been living in the enclosure supplied by the quartermaster

The stampede prevailed even the garrison. Nearly all the ladies encouraged by certain old fogies of officers run off one night to the stockade of the Hudson's Bay company. One family of ~~officers~~ ~~officers~~ ~~officers~~ (of officers) went to Portland and another to San Francisco. What is called Fort Vancouver presented the remarkable spectacle of families of settlers flying to the fort and families of officers flying from the fort for protection.

The plan of the Indians was to attack Vancouver as well as the Cascades and if Col. Wright had left the Dalles on the 24th as he intended instead of on the 25th , Ft. Vancouver possibly might have had a right hard time.

The stampede is now happily ended and the ladies are getting a little ashamed of themselves and a few of the bolder ones have returned.

My company is the only one of the regiment here, the rest are at Steilacoom, the Cascades. I was sent down on suspicion that Indians down at the Cascades had assembled at a point below this and were only waiting for a ----- with Indians about Steilacoom, 160 miles distant, to attack Vancouver

Fort Vancouver

April 11, 1856

My Dear Nannie;

?

I regret deeply that our ~~regiment~~ has been broken up. When it is set on foot again I very much fear that I will be left to garrison Vancouver or guard the Cascades in virtue of my juniority.

All uniform coats and flower pot hats have been stored. The officers were rigged out instead with blue flannel blouses and slouched felt hats. We were to spend the summer in a region where it scarcely ever rains. It is now 12 p.m. and the mail from San Francisco just came in.

General Wool assumed in his ????

Tell mother that I never miss a chance of a single mail to send a letter home.

Ft. Vancouver, W.T., 12 April

1856

My dear mother:

Your letters arrived. The steamer only touched to drop the mail and proceeded up the Willamette to Portland whence she returns to San Francisco at 6 o'clock this evening. I did not know I would have a chance to write but an express will be sent to Portland in time.

Col. Wright has been here several days awaiting arrival of the San Francisco steamer.

Lt. Col. Morris, the captain who was at Rockland some years ago is in command at Vancouver. .

Mrs. Chiffelle is doing well. She is much improved in health. She and Dr. Brown's wife and sister-in-law, Miss Crawford, and Mrs. Dent were the only ladies who had not the folly to run off to the Hudson's Bay on the night of the stampede.

Tell Nannie that at her request made long ago I send her a lock of my hair although I think it a very unchristianized and heathenish and Indian-like thing, suggestive of treachery and scalping knives for her

to want such a token. I nevertheless value very highly the lock of her hair and have worn it since Bob gave it to me at Ft. Monroe.

Ft. Vancouver, April 20-May 13  
1856

My dear mother:

Col. Wright left the Cascades by way of the Dalles on Monday

Various opinions are entertained as to the prospect of his getting a fight. The popular opinion is that he will not but I am very sure that he will. He is going directly to the Selah fishery on the Yakima river. That is, after the Cascades, the most valuable salmon fishery in the country and as the Indians depend chiefly for subsistence on their stores of dried salmon and the fishing season is now at hand, they will not, I think, suffer it to be occupied without a struggle.

Col. Wright since he left passed the Dalles, the Indians in considerable numbers which could not however be correctly estimated but they did not molest him.

On the day Wright left the Dalles a small party of Indians stampeded the guard of volunteers camp about five miles on the west side of the river and captured 380 horses.

We are daily expecting an express with news of a fight. Carr is now in command of a party of 20 mounted scouts composed of detachments of mine and Wallin's companies which patrol the neighborhood country.

15 May, 1856

Mrs. Wallin, who availed herself of the stampede here about 28 March to make a visit to San Francisco where she found safety returned two weeks since.

He gives a party tonight in compliment to Maj. Rains family who are shortly to go to Humboldt (sic) where they have no more parties and society.

Miss Stella Rains , a gay young lady of 17 ,seems to regard the proposal pretty much as she would that of being buried alive.

My letters were crossing the portage at the time of the attack and fell into the hands of the Indians.



Camp on the Naches River

8th June, 1856

My dear mother:

On the 15th May a little before daylight an express came from this camp with orders from Col. Wright for my company to proceed as soon as possible up the Columbia River and report to Lt. Col. Steptoe then in command at the Dalles, who was himself ordered to join him (Col. Wright) at the Naches with Haller's company of the 4th, Woodruff's company, then at the Upper Cascades, Bowman's, then at the Dalles and mine at Vancouver, all to come prepared for a three-month campaign.

I set to work and had my company ready in almost four hours then I had to wait for the boat. We arrived at Capt. Winder's camp at the Lower Cascades about sunset of the same day.

The next day ~~waded~~ (Monday) while preparing for the march across the portage one of my men accidentally shot off one of his own fingers and had to be sent back to Vancouver owing to great misery and on the part of transportation. The whole day was consumed in taking my company baggage over the portage and we did not leave the upper Cascades until nearly sunset and arrived at the Dalles just at dawn on the 17th, two days earlier than I was expected. Then we were delayed until the 23rd waiting for the quartermaster to prepare his subsistence train of pack mules for supply of ourselves and Col. Wright's camp for 60 days.

Mr. and Mrs. Chippelle went to the Dalles with my company, Mrs. Raines also accompanied us as far as the Cascades, and Mr. and Mrs. Chippelle, although everyone invited them to garrison at the Dalles did me the honor to live in one of my wall tents the whole time of my stay there. On the 23rd we crossed the Columbia and encamped eight miles from the river on the banks of a stream about the size of Back Branch. There we remained all the next day for the supply train to come up.

All the officers present dined with Maj. Haller who having a wife no further distant than the Dalles was amply supplied with various little articles of luxury which we poor bachelors would never have known.

On the 28th, Sunday we resumed our march. After marching 18 miles from the Dalles uphill and over a country of bunch grass and dust, dry and parched, we entered a most lovely valley from 8 to 10 miles wide traversed by many small streams. This valley is included between the forks of the easternmost headwaters of the Klickitat river and on open rich grassy plain skirted by a ridge of mountains edged with snows adorned with a distant view of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams. We encamped and the next morning at 6 o'clock were again on the trail.

Our route this day was shaded throughout the whole 18 miles. The blankets of the soldiers having all got out I packed them on my horse to release the knapsacks of the men.

We encamped that 1 o'clock 2 miles this side of the summit of a mountain of whose height I ~~could~~ leave you to guess. The snow was two feet deep.

The next morning I made arrangements to have the blankets carried on mules which had been distributed to our men but gave my horse to a soldier who had been hurt by being crowded between a baggage mule and a tree. So I was again afoot and this time for a total of 23 miles, half the day in the shade of pine trees.

The rough, sterile sun parched ridge lay between two high mountains. The ridges were fashioned into curves and slopes and swales, deep gorges high peaks and gradually sank and disappeared into the Simcoe valley. The valley is watered by the Topinish or ~~Pischo~~ Pisco as it is called.

Distance lends all things enchantment that belong to the view of this valley. It is poor, parched, god forsaken and abandoned to the Klickitats and rattlesnakes and the bitter wild sage. But the rough broken ridges looked over this valley to a lovelier scene beyond



in the valley of the Yakima. The purple flower of the Camus plant spread over miles and miles of level plain giving the appearance of a vast lake or bay locked in the silent mountains.

We encamped on the Topinish and although I killed two rattlesnakes on the spot I had selected for my bed I recollect some grateful memories for the delightful bath of cold water I enjoyed there,

The next day ~~on~~ I again mounted my horse and a march of 18 or 20 miles brought us to the Atanam river at about 1 o'clock. This is a pretty valley. The river clear and cold completely fills up its channel to within a few inches of the ~~fronted level of the~~ first level of the valley which is a half mile wide on the right and about a mile wide in the left and back.

Not a tree was to be seen except the winding border of cottonwood and Atanam poplar.

The next morning we were up at 6 and rode 12 to 14 miles ~~but~~ to Col. Wright's camp on the Naches. I cannot understand how those officers who remain all day long and every day in the dusty range manage to bear it.

Carr and I after lunch ride out ~~now~~ over the hills and through valleys. The first day was eight miles up the river. We are the only ones to ride every day.

Yesterday we took a ride down the river to a point where we could see the confluence of the Naches with the Yakima.

At the point where the river breaks through its barrier into the great plain over which it hastens to join the Yakima stands a high block of columnar basalt, receding at the base so as to form a shallow cave where protected from the rain ~~we~~ and wind we found a large number of Indian paintings on the rocks, crudely representing as I suppose the painter's idea of their dieties.

We returned by the plateau.

I think of you always when I see anything beautiful and when there is nothing beautiful around I can see Rock Run just as plainly as if I were there.

Col. Wright has been engaged during the week on building a bridge across the Nachess for the transportation of supplies of the troops . It is under the charge of Lt. Bissel who deserves great credit for his task, doing it in a very scientific manner with no tools but axes and no material but green poplar saplings and rope mule halters. It seems a little strange that Bissel , one of the citizens appointees should be the one most capable and always selected to perform the duties appertaining to the exclusive scientific corps. He is also the topographer. We will probably cross the Nachess day after tomorrow and will procede at once across the Wenass to the Selah fisheries on the Yakima. Then no one except Col. Wright, if even he does, has any idea where he will take us.

The Indians who were on the opposite side of the river when I wrote to Henry shortly after my arrival ~~at~~ and whose chief had several interviews with Col. Wright suddenly decamped after about a week since and no one knows where they have dispersed, separated into their respective tribes or if not where they have gone or what their purpose is .

Col Wright I think expects to conclude a peace with them without the power of conquering.

As ever, my dear mother, J.  Archer.

Camp on Naches, 20th June  
1856

Dear Nannie:

The expressman arrived from Col. Wright. He stops here only long enough to change his horse before going on to the Dalles so that I will have time only to send you my love and tell you I am well.

Maj. Garnett arrived a few days since by way of Vancouver and Dalles with ~~detached~~ Dent and Fletcher's Companies which were unable on account of the snow on the mountains to come by the Naches pass.

Col. Wright who seemed determined to make peace with the Indians had many interviews with their chiefs in which they at last those who came in, Leschi, Owhi, and Tias, disclosed themselves for peace.

Friday was fixed upon for a general council. Col. Wright had a large bower erected for the council but they did not return. It was understood that unless they all come in at that time they would be severely dealt with.

By Wednesday Col. Wright with all his command except my company, Bowman's and Woodruff's crossed the Naches and moved on toward Snoqualmie pass. When the expressman left he was on the Yakima river.

Col. Steptoe, whom I like exceedingly, is in command of our battalion.



Camp on the Naches River

4th July, 1856

My Dear Mother:

When I last wrote the expressman was standing beside me with horses saddled and all ready to start only waiting for my letter which I was writing in a twilight too dim to enable me to see what I wrote. I have now a full day's notice of the departure of Lt. Allen who in command of a small party of dragoons escorts a pack train to Ft. Dalles tomorrow. There does not seem to be any likelihood of a fight with the Indians--indeed, a fight does not appear to be Col. Wright's object. When he had an opportunity on first meeting the Indians this side of the Naches he invited conferences and talks about peace with those of the Indian chiefs who came into his camp. All the time these talks were going on they were making preparations to remove their families and property to distant places of safety and the time arrived after which Col. Wright had disclosed that he would cross the Naches and attack all tribes who had not entered into terms and placed themselves under his protection and disposal they had disappeared. Col Wright in the presence of his officers, five or six days before his crossing the river held a council with Owhi, Tias and Laschi and other chiefs in which they expressed themselves in strongest terms in favor of establishing a peace. They were told to return here on the 17th of June, that is, in five days; to bring with them Kamiakin and the chiefs of all other hostile tribes; when the terms of a treaty of peace would be submitted to them, but <sup>if</sup> ~~after~~ they failed to appear on the 17th they would be regarded as hostile, attacked whenever they were found and driven up the mountains into the regions where snow never melts. None doubted the sincerity of their declarations of decision for peace.

Col. Wright commenced making grand preparations for their reception at the appointed time. He built a bower large enough for a circus in which to hold his council but the chiefs wouldn't come to the power



he had shaded for them".

They dispersed into small bands amongst the <sup>tributaries</sup> ~~mouths~~ of the Yakima and Columbia to catch supplies of salmon and among the camas lakes and prairies to dig the camas root, a small bulbous root which looks like the onion and tastes like the potato.

It looks funny to see the Colonel with infantry moving slowly over the vast plains after Indians as well mounted as the finest American cavalry and then when he does come up with them losing the golden opportunities in vain attempts to talk ~~to~~ them into peace. It reminds me of some of my early efforts to catch robins with fresh salt.

When Col. Wright us (we are 3 companies, F, G and I under Col. Steptoe) we moved our camp a few hundred yards and proceeded to make ourselves as comfortable as circumstances would permit.

The two companies which joined us about the 15th June under Maj. Garnett brought up with them two wall tents and were obliged to leave them <sup>when</sup> ~~where~~ they left with Col. Wright. I have the use of one of them during my stay at this place and Carr has the little common tent which we had before jointly occupied. These two tents I have placed side by side and over and surrounded with a bower woven of willow branches with the leaves on. The bower extends about five paces in front of the tent doors forming a cool pleasant verandah which is our dining room and parlor. The whole space ~~is~~ enclosed by the bower is the tent floor and is covered by long grass which I have cut and spread. It is quite as pretty ~~as~~ and cool looking as your best straw matting. I have some furniture too, bedstead, writing table and settees made of forked sticks driven into the floor for the legs and little straight sapplings laid across and nicely fastened in their places with strips of bark (xxxxxxx ~~cut out~~)

The men have built quite a pretty little village of willow wyths thatched with the long grass of which I have spoken. The weather has been---when we first came up about the last of May it was very warm but for the last two weeks until yesterday we have worn overcoats

and sat by our fires from sunset until bed time. Today it is very warm, just like a fourth of July at home.

The last mail brought me <sup>two</sup> ~~one~~ letters from Nannie dated, one 17th and the other 18th April but postmarked both 19th May. Ber her to be a little more particular about her dates.

Maj. Lugenbeel ~~often~~ sends his regards to you and Nannie. Tell all my lazy correspondents to write me. I never miss a mail myself.



Camp on the Naches W.T.

My dear Mother:

18th July, 1856

Col. "right is still on the Yakima talking to the I<sub>n</sub>dians at the last account. Some five or six hundred have surrendered themselves and were fishing quietly near his camp. Col. "right is expected here the 25th on his way to the Camus Prairies at the foot of Mt. "dams where he has appointment to meet with the Klickitats who are now engaged in digging the camus(sic) Our three companies here will go with him. "verything seems to indicate the establishment of peace with all the I<sub>n</sub>dian tribes of this region who a short time since were combined for war. It is ce tain that there will at least be no fighting this summer. We do not know as yet whether or not any troops are to be left in this region during the winter. "ho- ever remains might just as well be in ~~the~~ Liberia. All their communication by mail will be stopping by the snow(I am told) for several months, even now the days are so long and the sun so warm as soon as the sun goes down we put on our overcoats and sit by the fire.

Affectionately yours

J. J. Archer

Camp on the Wenass

31st July 1856

Dear mother:

About the 20th inst. Col. Wright made a reconnaissance of the neighboring country to the north and as far to the east as the north fork of the Columbia. He returned in high spirits to the Nachess bringing with him the dragoons and howitzers and two companies of the 9th leaving on the Yakima Maj. Garnett with 000 2 companies of the 4th, one of the ninth and a detachment of 25 dragoons.

The colonel was in the enjoyment of the full assurance that he had established his reputation as a smart pacificator having made treaties with all the Indian tribes lately arrayed against him except Kamiakin who had ??? across the Snake river a few fragments of the tribes. But when you consider that the Colonel is well aware that Gov. Stevens with his volunteers is in the field acting without contact with Colonel Wright and without ?? to ~~any~~ any terms he may make with the Indians. It seems strange he should be so well satisfied since the Indians who have him to ??? with by Col. Wright should after dissolving their confederacy be attacked by the volunteers it would have all the effect of apprehension of bad faith in Col. Wright.

On the 23rd Col. W with the same force proceeded to the Topanish to meet a dâlegation of Klickitats with whom terms of peace were made, but yesterday he received intelligence (I don't know how authoritative) of a battle between two volunteer companies and some Indians near Walla Walla who had always been friendly which had given such force to Kamiakin's hostile speeches as to put him at the head of a large war party, now said to be on its way to attack Maj. Garnett at his camp on the Yakima.

In consequence of these-???? which however I attach no importance to, I am ???

I am in Garnett's camp. I arrived at 11 o'clock ~~had~~ and having bathed and dined have seated myself by the banks of the stream in the shade of an alder bush to write to you. My pack mule and riding horse

are quietly grazing near me and my men, all except a single sentinel posted on an eminence near by, are sound asleep . As Carr is absent on detached service since the 25th I have nothing in the world to distract my thoughts from you at home.



Camp on Yakima River

2 August, 1856

I spoke a little too fast when I said there was nothing to distract my attention for I had scarcely written the words when a prairie grouse lighted near me. Such temptation of course could not be resisted.

The next morning--yesterday--I was up at 2 o'clock and by 3 the dawn of day, we were again on our way.

The scenery of this country is still very ,very interesting to me.

In marching four miles I had attained an elevation of at least a thousand feet above the Wenass-- at the end of about another 4 miles we were at the bottom of a rocky canyon of about the same elevation as the point from which we started in the morning--another 8 miles brought us over equally high hills to the Yakima river.

This valley is very beautiful and sometime when I am not so busy as now I will attempt its description, contenting myself for the present with saying that from hill to hill it is about 15 miles wide; that from the point opposite on each side as far as we can see it, the river, the sides of the mountain, are covered with pines and firs while toward the Columbia not a tree is to be seen except a wide margin on the river bank. This is the pleasantest place I have ever seen except Vancouver.

Tomorrow Maj. Garnett is taking with him as an escort the dragoons detachment and will leave to join Col. Wright and after that knows not whither. He has kindly turned over to me his bower, built in the midst of a group of tall fir trees together with all his benches, tables and things that would take me a long time to assemble after our type of housekeeping here. To be sure he made no sacrifice but he could just as easily have bequeathed them to ~~anyone~~ someone else..

I am ~~very~~ much pleased to find Garnett fulfilling my predictions of him (The very idea of which was scoffed at by most all the officers at Fort Monroe) that he would prove himself one of the most agreeable officers to serve under in the whole territory.

Camp on the Yakima River , W.T. 16 Aug, 1856

Dear mother:

I have now been here over two weeks. It is much more pleasant than the camp on the Naches where every wind filled the air with clouds of dust. Here the view is more beautiful, extending for many miles in every direction over a level valley enclosed within high mountains. The winds, which here as at Naches blow almost constantly and with great force from the direction of the snow covered ridge of the Cascade Range come to us fresh over miles of grassy plain without a particle of dust. The soil of the valley is very rich but only affords moderately luxuriant vegetation owing to the dryness of the climate.

Throughout the summer drought is the great curse of this country but even were the valleys irrigated by turning on the streams from higher levels which could easily be done, I do not think corn and wheat would flourish on account of the cold at night.

It is never warm enough in summer to sleep without blankets and that on the night of 13th of July where I was ice one-fourth inch thick formed. Neither the grass however nor the leaves of any of the trees amongst which are the aspen and cottonwood (as you call it, Athenian poplar) whose foliage is easily killed by frost, appeared to be unaffected by the cold. This is not the season for flowers but I found growing here a profusion of the snowberry bush which you cultivate as choice shrubbery at home .

The Indian troubles seem to be healed and all the lately hostile tribes have at last come to terms. Many are of the opinion that it was necessary to have fought and severely beaten the Indians before negotiating in order to render the peace durable. I am strongly inclined to this opinion myself. However officers and troops will remain in the country to prevent another combination of the tribes and secure their good conduct.



The troops which remain in the country during the winter will be stationed, four companies at Walla Walla under Col. Steptoe and four including mine under Major Garnett, on To-Pin-Ish creek at a point about halfway between this and the Dalles. Two of the companies which are to remain at ~~Topped~~ To-pin-ish are now there building quarters for the winter.

Aug. 16, 1856

Mine (Co. C) I am told, will remain here until 1st Oct. I am very anxious to be where I can do something to prepare myself and company against the severity of the winter. The greatest ~~difference~~ <sup>differences</sup> I am told, except in the climate of places within 20 or 30 miles of each other. For instance at our camp on Naches at the same time that the snow is four feet deep (that is during the whole winter\* the Indians tell us that 15 miles below at its junction with the Yakima the snow will be only two or three inches deep so at Walla Walla the winters are comparatively open and mild. These phenomena of climate make the habits of the Indians somewhat like those of the gentlemen on the coast who travel during the summer.

As soon as the snow has melted from these regions they move ~~on~~ from the warmer country on the lower Yakima and ~~plains~~ <sup>plains</sup> of the Walla Walla, traveling with their herds of horses and cattle to fresh pastures. Later in the season they catch and dry their winter stores of salmon which swarm in all the tributaries of the Columbia in June and July. Besides the salmon fishing which is still going on they dig the kouse (a root which when dried resembles flour and the Kamas root (sic) which resemble a small onion in appearance and to the taste is something like sweet potato. Later still they gather and dry large quantities of berries which grow further up the country on the slopes and in the gorges of the great Cascade range. When the snows begin to fall they return to shelter and warmer parts of the vallies of the Yakima and Columbia where their herds can subsist



by grazing throughout the winter. The prospect of spending the winter on the Topinish xxxxxxxxx officers and thrown together on their own resources for months without books, papers or letters, those sweet messenger/ birds which now come so promptly through from the east to tell us our loved ones XXXXXXXX the prospect is not very brilliant one but I do not despair. Carr and I can, I hope, muster a few choice books and I will be frugal in their use and will read them and talk over them and differ in opinion about them and then I hope that I can fall back to some resources of my own mind, independent of books and changes of ~~Scenery~~ <sup>Scenery</sup> and occupation. I have many fresh recollections, as yet scarcely referred to. I can trace out ~~to~~ on the maps my wanderings and sojournings, illustrated with pictures of a thousand scenes and thus will I be every in your midst, soothed and comforted by your affection while you vainly imagine that I am far away, buried among the snows in a little nook of the mountains, weary, gloomy and heartsick of what you will regard equal to a Siberian exile as I look forward to all the means of ~~regularly~~ <sup>regularly</sup> beguiling the time. I also must persuade myself that when snows melt and the sun shines warm again I will hardly be ready to go out of my den into the big world.

Adams & Co. Express can always be depended on for bringing all the way your letters in the shortest time.

Maj. Haller always inquires for Bob when we receive letters and sends his best regards to him.

This valley abounds with grouse of which there are several distinct varieties, one of which the sage hen is more than twice as large as our pheasant. The river affords the finest trout in great abundance so that we are never at loss for fishing and shooting.

I have had by me for more than a month plenty of reading matter, including a vol. of McCauley's Essays and Carr who had gone to the Dalles on detached service, returned a week ago bringing with him Prescott's new history of Philip 2nd.

The little spec of war which has lately arisen on the horizon toward England has caused some little excitement here. I have but little doubt that it will all terminate amicably. But should war come I should like some of my friends to apply for a regiment of volunteers or for a field appointment in one of the regular regiments which would be added to the army for the period of the war.

I send you an old California paper that you may read an article which will make you better satisfied with the case you have always taken to preserve the trees on your fields. Keep it for Bob and Henry to read. I think it might be published in every county in the state at least as often as the census is taken. Since I have been so long in the trackless, glazing, parched dusty dried up country the recollection of the deep shade of our thick woods at home is like the memory of the shadow of a great rock in a weary land to the traveler over the burning sands of the Arabian deserts.

This is our muster day and in consequence of the mail going back tomorrow we are more than usually busied with muster rolls. I have been busy as I could be the whole day and did not get through until 11 tonight when I sent for Maj. Haller, the commander, to come and examine my rolls-- after he had, he remained talking until 11-2 o'clock in the a.m. and as I then wrote a letter for a lady cousin and some half dozen official letters and as the express leaves at 4 o'clock I find I have but little time left.

Haller goes to the Dalles with the expressman. I received by the same mail which brought your letters, orders to join Maj. Garnett at the Topinish but as Maj. Haller is obliged to be absent for 10 days or two weeks I have to stay here in command of the post until he returns.

There are now 3 companies here, the other 2 I expect will remain here a month longer. It seems not to be certain that I will remain at the Topinish this winter but may be sent either to Walla Walla with Col. Steptoe who wrote me



the other day that he expected me to go with him to Puget Sound.

....morning my dear mother. The mail has been closed for sometime and Maj. Haller who longs to be gone is waiting impatiently for me to let him go. Yours affectionately.

J.G. Archer.